M.R.O. 1—77,006—8-6-37.

(1) Number of pages__________

(2) Date of repair__________

(3) Initials of the Referencer__________

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 121 238-239.	Press Mis.
Dated 13- 1- 1873.	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
13th January 1873.

No. 238. Read the following letter from the District Engineer, Madura, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madura, 20th December 1872, No. 4,307 :—

I HAVE the honour to submit, for the sanction of Government, the two estimates noted in the margin* for the construction of a Taluq Cutcherry, Subsidiary Jail and out-houses at Periacolum and Pulney, respectively, prepared in accordance with the standard designs, copies of which are enclosed.

4 Plans sent by banghy.
2 Abstract Estimates.
1 Specification.

	RS.
* 1 Estimate for constructing Taluq Cutcherry, Subsidiary Jail and out-houses at Periacolum	16,300
1 Do. do. at Pulney	16,300

2. I may mention that a grant of Rupees 5,000 is sanctioned in the current year's Provincial Budget for the Periacolum Taluq Cutcherry and Subsidiary Jail, whereas there is no provision made in the Budget for the Taluq Cutcherry to be constructed at Pulney, where the want of that building is seriously felt, in consequence of the existing Cutcherry being in a precarious condition, as I have already reported to Government in my letter No. 951, dated 22nd June 1871, printed with G. O., No. 236, dated 31st July 1871.

3. Under these circumstances, I request that you will be pleased to sanction an allotment for the current year to enable me to commence with the work at once.

4. As regards the latrines, I propose to adopt the accompanying design, and I have accordingly made the necessary provision in the abovementioned two estimates for their construction, and I trust that this course will meet with the approval of the Government on consideration of the following points.

5. In G. O., 17th September 1872, No. 1,264, in the Judicial Department, the Government are pleased to consider the objections which I raise to the Coimbatore muster latrine as "theoretical," and that they have not been found to exist in practice. But I respectfully submit that as a choice between the two systems has never been given to the public, we are scarcely in a position to say that natives approve of a certain design, because they have no other offered to them.

6. The question is, is it proper for us to assume that the natives of this country are lost to all sense of decency and shame? And even should such an unfavourable opinion obtain, are we justified in ministering to such depraved habits, and in refraining from discountenancing them, as we may readily do, by the introduction of the conveniences in use in other, in this respect, more civilized countries?

7. It appears to me a great scandal that while abuse is freely heaped upon the lower orders in this country for their filthy habits, as regards the calls of nature, no adequate attempt is made to introduce less offensive habits, by the introduction of some system that may represent the inodorous houses of ease to which we ourselves are accustomed.

8. In the Coimbatore latrine, I submit, that no attempt at privacy—the *fons et origo* of a privy—is even hinted at. And is it to be wondered at that a man of high caste prefers to take his chance in the fields under the pure canopy of the sky, rather than risk contamination from his dirty and offensive neighbour at the moment of his greatest offensiveness?

9. The latrine I recommend is a cheap adaptation of Moule's earth-closet system. Covered galvanized pans are provided, by which the expense of a roofed latrine is not necessitated. For it is observed that with a closed and open latrine equally available to them, natives prefer the latter, because they find that, however carefully kept, the covered buildings are never free from a certain sickening vapour; and even in wet weather they prefer the open field with the shelter of a *cadjan* umbrella to the roofed-in and fetid-smelling latrine.

10. I trust that on consideration of the foregoing remarks, the Government will be pleased to sanction the design of latrine now submitted by me. I am happy to be able to say that the Madura Municipality, recognizing the principle I advocate, have authorized the construction by me of a latrine on a design somewhat similar to that now forwarded; and I feel satisfied that its advantages once tested, native public opinion will not be divided as to its merits.

No. 239. ORDER THEREON, 13th January 1873, No. 121.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 8.

THE sum of Rupees 16,600 is sanctioned for each of the Taluq Cutcherries at Periacolum and Pulney, subject to reduction to Rupees 16,300 on approval of the District Engineer's proposed plan of latrine, which will be referred for consideration in the Judicial Department.

2. A sum of Rupees 5,000 is transferred from the allotment for the Taluq Cutcherry at Kadri in the Cuddapah District for commencement of the work at Pulney in the current official year.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. W. WALKER, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the District Engineer, Madura.
,, ,, ,, Cuddapah.
,, Controller of Public Works Accounts.
,, Judicial Department, with Note by Honourable Mr. Ellis.
" Acct. Genl.

Exd. S. T. Austin.

P. W. 1872 Weptt
No 43
From (5) 6486
The District Engineer
Madura
To
The Secretary to
Government D.P.W.

Dated 20th December 1872
Received 30th

Enclosures 7
Forwards for sanction Plans & estimate for constructing Talook Cutcherry &c at Periacoolum & Pulney

Returned vide 57 ...

No 121 - 13th Jany/73 -

With an Order

Jany/73

No: 121

The sum of Rs 16,600 is sanctioned for each of the Talook Cutcherries at Periaco-lum and Vulvey; subject to reduction to Rs 16,300 on approval of the District Engineers proposed Plan of Latrine, (which will be referred for consideration in the Judicial Department).

W.V. /

A sum of Rs 5,000 is transferred from the allotment for the Talook Cutcherry at Kadri in the Cuddapah District for commencement of the works at Vulvey in the current official year.

G.N.W.

I would, to silence him give Roberts latrine a trial & ask for a report on it. R.H.

Please show to Mr. Huddleston

To
The Dt. Engr. Madura ×
" " " Cuddapah
" Controller
Jud Dept. with note by Honble Mr. Ellis & Enclosure
Acctt Genl "

× M. S. Dub to Madura only 13/1/73
P-C — of — total 21/1/73.

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